



FWPP Report

**Forest Health Council
Oct 9, 2014**

1) Planning –

- a) Continuing to work through Public Comments received on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (107 individuals – 530 separate comments). Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision expected this winter.
- b) Boundary survey continues, and is nearing completion (USFS boundary in some areas).
- c) Hosted a meeting with city storm-water staff, the USFS hydrology staff, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (Phoenix staff), and El Paso Natural Gas pipeline staff regarding drainage and run-off issues along the city's north boundary, and ways to address current issues and proactively address any issues that might result from forest treatment actions.

2) Outreach –

- a) Traveled to the Alpine area to review past cable logging operations, met on-site with individuals involved in those operations to understand intent, technology, and outcomes, inspected impacts (little-to-none) from those operations, and evaluated the effects of the Wallow fire on those sites. Information gathered was used to provide a written response to the Sierra Club over concerns they expressed regarding this type of harvesting option being considered for FWPP.
- b) Conducted field tour with representatives from Center for Biological Diversity to examine Mexican Spotted Owl habitat and planned treatments, and visual impacts of work throughout area.
- c) Participated in three events during the community's annual Festival of Science celebration: a hands-on workshop for kids, a brown bag lunch discussion with adults, and a hike for residents.
- d) Presented on FWPP at the "*Managing for Future Risks of Fire, Post Fire Flooding, and Extreme Precipitation*" workshop, hosted by University of AZ, in Las Vegas.
- e) Developing some Harvesting System handouts that will focus on Hand-Thinning, Traditional Ground-Based Mechanized, Steep-Slope Mechanized, Cable, and Helicopter. To be used as general informational handouts as we move forward.
- f) Participating in a study hosted by the Kresge Foundation on *Community-Based Adaptation in the US*, focused on our development of FWPP.
- g) NAU's Rural Policy Institute (RPI) has completed the "FWPP Cost Avoidance Study" commissioned by the City. Following the *Schultz Fire Full-Cost Accounting* report issued by RPI, it shows the voters \$10 million investment will prevent nearly \$1.2 billion in damages should the area catastrophically burn followed by severe flooding. The study will be officially rolled-out at the upcoming "*Healthy Forests – Vibrant Economies*" workshop next week in Scottsdale.

3) Implementation –

- a) Mechanized harvesting and hand thinning has been completed on the 400-acre State land Equestrian parcel. Removal of wood products will be completed within the next two weeks.
- b) Hand thinning by the USFS and AZ State Forestry crews in the 300-acre Schultz Creek parcel has been completed.
- c) Hand thinning on the first Observatory Mesa Open Space parcel, as well as on other parcels (total of 100-acres) has been completed by City crews.

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